Evolution of a Woman's College in China

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COMPILED BY
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WOMAN'S BOARD OF MISSIONS OF THE INTERIOR
(Congregational)
Room 1315, 19 South La Salle Street
CHICAGO

1914

FOREWORD

The modest writer of this booklet has left unsaid some things which should be added. There is no living witness except Dr. Chauncey Goodrich, left to tell the story of the frail young missionary who arrived in Peking in 1868, just as Mrs. Bridgman was retiring from the work, to find laid on her the entire burden of the school. It was only a fledgling school, but fledglings need special care, and it was given by one who should have had full time for the study of the language. With a vision which looked through long years, and a strength of will which overcame all obstacles, she laid broad and deep the foundations of that institution which is today the joy and glory of the W. B. M. I.

When she returned in 1901 to see only desolate ruins, that same vision and will was largely instrumental in a fairy structure rising from the ruins of the old, and it is fitting that the first college building should bear the name, "Mary Porter Hall."—LUELLA MINER.

MISS MINER AND GRADUATES OF 1910

Woman's College, Peking

EVOLUTION OF A WOMAN'S COLLEGE IN CHINA

It is almost fifty years since the Bridgman school was opened in Peking. The story of its beginnings has been often repeated, but its many old friends may need to be reminded of the tiny germ, with unfortunate environment, from which the present institution has been evolved, and its present supporters should know the story of how the college has grown from the little school of those early days. The name Bridgman, formally given it in 1876, is that of the widow of one of the very first American missionaries in China. His work was entirely in the south, but after his death Mrs. Bridgman, a woman of more than sixty years, went to the north and was the first American woman to begin work in the capital, in 1864.

She found a fine compound, to which a romantic story attaches, for sale at a nominal price, and having some means of her own, purchased the place for the American Board Mission. The compound—a word used throughout the far east for the walled enclosure containing the residence of a single family or clan, be the houses few or many—had been a part of the palace of one of the most cruel and unscrupulous of the Peking officials, and was the residence of his steward, whose cupidity and merciless exactions were like those of his master. Upon the downfall of the chief, he hung himself to escape the fury of those whom he had wronged, and the haunted place was shunned by all who knew its story and feared the revenge of the ghosts of former owners; so it fell into the hands of foreigners, for a tithe of its real value. The site is still the home of the mission, although so enlarged and altered that there is nothing in the enclosure itself to remind one of the picturesque and ornate buildings, the walls and gateways, with their moon doors, arbors and labyrynthine

courts, of the ancient establishment. The Boxers destroyed not only every vestige of walls and buildings in 1900, but even uprooted and burned or carried away the great trees, which were the growth of scores of years, and the pride and joy of those who lived under their comforting shade during the torrid Peking summers.

It was by a strange providence that after this devastation, the refuge which was found for pupils and homeless

MAIN GATEWAY OF COMPOUND SHOWING CHURCH

Christians who came from their siege in the British Legation, was the Palace near by, which had been the home of the employer of this steward. In the courts and dwellings of this Mongol Prince, the school was reorganized and began the third distinct period of its history.

The first period was from the gathering of a few little girls from homes of beggarly poverty in 1864 until the Tientsin massacre in 1870. The second from 1870 to the Boxer outbreak in 1900, and the third from that time until the present.

During the first period the growth was slow, and the process of selection of pupils and the gradual elimination of the most undesirable class of girls very difficult. There was no Christian community from which to draw, and the only motive which induced parents to send their daughters to the feared and hated foreigners was relief from the burden of their support. Not only food and tuition were provided, but the pupils were clothed at the expense of the school. When a number of the Roman Catholic Sisters of Mercy and their pupils were killed by a mob in Tientsin in 1870, the excitement and terror in Peking was extreme and the parents of girls in the Bridgman School rushed, in a state bordering on frenzy, to the Mission to demand their children. For a time it seemed as if none would be left, and it was months before any considerable number were regathered and the ordinary school life resumed. It was in this time of fiery testing that the teacher in charge first came to know something of the inner life of her pupils. In those dark days of discouragement and dismay shone forth, in the few, the sterling qualities of loyalty and faith which made life new, in what it revealed of possibility in those who looked to her for guidance. A majority of the former pupils never returned; of many of them no tidings were ever received. It was as if the work of years had been swept away by a tidal wave, which had carried back into the sea of heathenism all that had been gathered.

So it seemed, but as the years went on, one after another have been found again, and the two most valued workers in our present force of Bible Women are from among those earlier pupils who were lost to us, one for fifteen, the other for more than twenty years. Stories of others reach us in most unexpected ways now and then, some of utter degradation and wreck, others of little lights kept burning in the darkness, which have kindled tiny tapers of hope in a succeeding generation, and brought back to us children or grandchildren to ask about the "Jesus Way."

Up to this time the only teachers had been Mrs. Bridgman, 1864-1868, Miss Mary Porter and, for a brief time,

Miss Mary Thompson, whom ill-health obliged to return to the United States, after a brave struggle of three years. At the beginning of the second stage in the school life Miss Jane E. Chapin came to its aid, and for the next thirty years put her vigorous purpose and deep conscientiousness into its work, both in the class-room and in all that made for family life. She had had the training of a public school teacher at home, and gave the pupils new standards in many ways. Most of all she showed them the power of a thoroughly steadfast and earnest devotion to truth and righteousness, and left the impress of her own personality on everyone who came under her influence. The picturesque whitewashed buildings, redeemed from the appearance of untidiness, but never thoroughly renovated from the old regime, gradually gave place to reconstructed, wholesome structures, still in Chinese style, but with modifications which added much to their healthfulness.

MISS MARY PORTER

In 1879 Miss Ada Haven joined the mission, and from that time until 1900 gave herself with rare devotion to the making and mending of girls; to borrow Dr. Hume's designation of himself as a "Maker and Mender of Men." Her intellectual and spiritual powers, of the highest quality, were placed with almost too generous devotion, at the service of her pupils, and the stamp of her character reappears in beautiful ways even yet to testify to the continued influence of such self giving. After the Boxer days she married Dr.

Calvin Mateer, and for a few years was his indefatigable helper in his large and varied literary work. Since his death she carried on some of their joint labor as well as original work, and is still in connection with the Presbyterian Mission in Shantung. In 1881 Miss Porter gave over the responsibilities of the leadership in the school, and in 1882 left Peking for the "Country Parish of Pang Chuang."

The year 1890 was memorable for much sickness, so that the labors of the teachers were more in hospital work than instruction. The poor suffered fearfully from the heavy rains and the miasm laden air made the region full of disease. These fierce storms, however, which brought such ruin and desolation, were God's instrument for enlarging the Bridgman School. It had outgrown its capacity, but the owners of the bits of adjacent ground so long needed, refused to sell. When the torrents fell till the water in the courts of the compound stood a foot in depth, the roofs and walls of the old buildings on the needed ground fell over into the school court. The poor families were forced to move; the owners no longer received rent, and after the usual amount of Oriental delay and chaffering they sold to the missionaries for a reasonable price.

That same year witnessed the arrival of Miss Nellie N. Russell and Miss Mary E. Stanley—both assigned to other work, but who gave such help to the Bridgman School as enabled Miss Haven to take her vacation in 1891, after eleven years of service.

The year 1894 was also a noteworthy one. The old Christian teacher and preacher who had been in the school for many years as its Chinese head, entered into rest. The war between China and Japan filled the hearts of the missionaries with vague unrest and anxiety—not for themselves, but for their Christian people to whom would have come bitter persecution in case of an uprising. For the protection of the girls and of the mission property, Miss Haven remained in Peking during the entire summer, and so great was the danger that the girls were sent to their homes and

not called together in the autumn, thus causing temporary interruption in the school work. But these tribulations had been preceded early in the year by a revival. Miss Chapin wrote: "Our girls were much moved. A great blessing came to those who were already members of the church, and of the others there were scarcely any who did not express their desire to become followers of Christ."

It was in 1894 also, that Miss S. F. Hinman joined Miss Haven and Miss Chapin. She entered upon the work of acquiring the Chinese language with eager enthusiasm, and was soon able to do full class work; but failing health compelled her to return to the United States in 1897.

The history of the school has been a story of gradual growth and enlargement from its beginnings, growth outward as well as spiritual and intellectual. One of these stories of enlargement in possessions reads like a fairy tale. It was made possible largely by a gift to the school from the Tank estate. In 1897 it became apparent that, spite of the decision that no more girls would be received who were betrothed to heathen husbands, the school had again grown beyond its capacity. A new open court, larger than the others, was added, giving room for gymnastics, clothes lines, etc. The old hovels on the piece of ground were torn down and a row of dormitories built. The dining-room was enlarged by the removal of a partition between it and one of the dormitories. More tables were needed, and for these they went into their old temple in Melon Seed Lane, on land purchased by private funds and held for this time of growth. A grand interment of the gods of this temple had taken place in the early spring, the clay of which they were made being buried in the court, while their wooden framework served as kindling wood for the weekly wash of the school for many months. Now the vacant shrines and incense tables were hauled out, and made into bureaus for the new dormitories and tables for the dining-room, while those on which the rows of smaller gods stood made substantial washing benches. The scaly horrors of the painted dragons disappeared under the carpenter's plane; that which had held the

FIRST GRADUATES OF BRIDGMAN ACADEMY

Each became the wife of a teacher and preacher. But one is now living, the one in the center of the group. She is the wife of an ordained pastor, Mr. Wang, the superintendent of a large country field connected with the Peking station.

unsubstantial meals of the gods now steamed with bowls of rice, and incense sticks gave place to chop-sticks!

For the first time all the grades planned for were in actual existence, and a class was preparing to graduate. This crowning event occurred early in 1897, when three modest, well-trained young ladies received their diplomas—beautiful red satin scrolls, handsomely written in Chinese characters. They read their essays with quiet dignity, and the touching sweetness of the valedictory was a surprise to all.

Although this was the first formal graduation of a class, the school had before sent out scores of young women, many of whom entered positions of large usefulness. One lost to the missionaries for years, returned after the death of her husband to enter joyfully into Christian service. A dear circle, which grew larger year by year, were wives and mothers, respected and loved by husband and children, who are themselves named by the name of Christ.

It was upon a company of Christian girls and young women, who had already learned much of Jehovah as Sun and Shield, so unlike the terror-stricken ones of 1870, that the Boxer storm broke in 1900. Many of the pupils scattered to their homes, some to make hasty marriages that they might have the protection of those to whom they had been earlier betrothed. Not a few went only to die in the places in which they had sought refuge; while a small number later rejoined their associates in study. The story of the little company, who were sheltered, first, for some days in the Methodist Mission, and later in the British Legation, is written in the annals of that strange summer. One, now a graduate teacher in Academy and College, is the little Li Shu Cheng, of Miss Miner's Narratives in "China's Book of Martyrs." The "Siege Days" record of Miss Haven also gives vivid pictures of those experiences. Twenty-two of the pupils, with their teachers, Miss Haven and Miss Sheffield, took that perilous walk to the British Legation, within a stone's throw of the gate-tower crowded with hundreds of soldiers, whose rude taunts and scornful laughter reached their ears as they passed. "Wherever they go, it is only a

question of a few days and they will all be killed!" one man said in their hearing. In the oral story of one, freely translated, she says, "A strange calm possessed us * * * We were taken first to Prince Su's palace, made up of quadrangle after quadrangle of low brick buildings with a large paved court in the center. Soon one found, in a little side court, a kitchen with stoves and immense kettles of cooked rice, which the Prince's servants had not had time to eat before their hurried flight * * * During the long weeks that followed, twenty-two of us were crowded into small rooms, to which we had been taken from the palace; into these the afternoon sun beat pitilessly. Bullets rattled over and among us, and shells sometimes came our way, but we were no longer in the storm center and not one of us was wounded; not one died during the summer * * Six days after the siege was lifted the homeless ones found new abiding places. We twenty-two girls of the Bridgman School went back, close by the desolate ruins of our former school premises in the forsaken residence of a Mongol Prince. Before our school broke up in June this place was a Boxer camp. We saw the great kettles in which their food was cooked; we saw great piles of swords, blood-stained. Was it the blood of our mission friends?

"So often during the two months of the siege we thought of the Children of Israel, and of how God led them through the great and terrible wilderness. Was it not like crossing the Red Sea when we went from the Methodist Mission to the Legation, and God held back our enemies? God provided food and water for us in such a wonderful way; it made us think of the Manna and the Water from the Rock. If it had not happened that thousands of bushels of wheat were stored in a government granary near by, just two weeks before the siege, I am sure we should have starved to death. And when our enemies tried to destroy us by fire, time and time again God sent the winds to fight for us, changing its direction so that the flames blew away from us. 'Blessed be the Lord, for He has showed us his marvelous kindness in a strong city.' During those weeks after we left our prison-

house joy and grief came to us hand in hand. One day there would be a touching meeting between parents and daughters, who had given up one another as lost; the next a friend would come to tell some one of our number that she was an orphan.

"We heard of the martyrdom of our beloved Ruth, valedictorian of the Class of 1899, who died with our missionaries in far off Shansi, where she was teaching, far away from home and friends. About twenty of our schoolmates were among those who, out of great tribulation have passed to their place beside the Great White Throne. *We did not hear of one who denied Jesus.* Three have come back to us after months of hiding in deserts and mountains and caves."

It was at the beginning of the third stage of the school's life that Miss Porter returned to Peking, after just twenty years given to other service.

The contrast between what she left in 1881 and what she found in 1901 was, in external things, tragic, but in the real things the character of the school and its pupils was such as to inspire large hope and spur to high endeavor. The company of students who had taken refuge with their teachers in the British Legation were still gathered in the Mongol Palace, with a promise that quarters there might be occupied for fifteen months longer. Would it be possible in that time to clear off the debris from our own premises and get buildings in order for their reception? It was a serious problem, but was undertaken with a courage born of the wondrous providences by which we had been led so far. Miss Elizabeth Sheffield, with the aid of Miss Grace Wyckoff of Pang Chuang, was in charge of the school and had so conducted it during the months since the siege was lifted as to prepare a class for graduation. The exercises were held in the great hall of the palace, made gay and attractive by the elaborate banners and umbrellas presented to Dr. Ament by grateful villagers whom he had befriended in those perilous times. Here in one of the Boxer headquarters, Manchu ladies and gentlemen of rank, for the first time were present at the commencement of a Christian

school, and here for the first time we heard the since so often repeated exclamation from a woman of the aristocracy, "Oh! Why did I never have such opportunities?" It was the dawn of the new day! How grateful we were that Christianity had already won a footing, that there were young men and women ready to meet the wonderful opportunities which it presented.

ACADEMY AND COLLEGE DORMITORY

In the autumn of 1902 the school moved to its new home in the old compound, and upon a part of its old site Miss Porter and Miss Sheffield were the only American teachers, as Miss Wyckoff had returned to her Shantung field. A large academy building, with assembly hall and class rooms, and a dormitory which could accommodate about a hundred girls, were nearing completion. The ladies' house adjoining gave place for the foreign instructors, with others engaged in evangelistic work. It had been a busy year in these external things, and one not less strenuous in the reorganization of the school in other lines. Courses of study were rearranged and definite plans made for a system of grading which should extend to the country and village school, and look definitely toward a college. Where was the woman to

take this larger work in hand and guide our freshly launched institution? Happily we knew.

She had had years of preparation in the college for young men in Tung Cho, was one of the most valued members of that faculty. After two years furlough in the United States, during which she wrote and published the story of two former pupils whom she had brought with her to America, "Two Heroes of Cathay," and "China's Book of Martyrs," Miss Luella Miner returned to Peking in 1903 to begin the work in connection with the school, which has since developed into the Bridgman Academy and North China Woman's College.

MISS LUELLA MINER

She became its head in 1904, and the years since have marked such steady and outreaching growth as even then we had hardly ventured to anticipate. The associates who have been with her during this time of rapid changes and constant advance have been Miss Bertha Reed, Miss Jessie Payne, Miss May Corbett, Miss Lucy I. Mead, Miss Mary E. Vanderslice, and the latest recruit, Miss Miske. Miss Elizabeth Sheffield, as Mrs. William B. Stelle has, in spite of other cares and duties, continued to give most efficient aid in the Kindergarten Training Department. Miss Porter gave the last years of her missionary service entirely to the Bible School, and Miss Reed was called after Miss Russell's death in 1911, to the distinctive work for women.

Immediately after the Boxer wave had passed and as soon

as reorganization of work had begun, the missionaries of the various societies realized that the time had come when the higher educational work could be better and more economically done by union efforts than by each mission's sustaining and conducting its own. During the previous years when all were feeling their way in beginning and experiments this had been necessary, but the new era brought new methods. All the Protestant Missions in Peking entered, either wholly or in part, into the North China Educational Union, and much of the advance made along all lines in the years since 1902 is due to the combined counsels and labors of the representative men and women who form its board of managers.

The Bridgman School became the Bridgman Academy in 1904, and that year the Woman's Union College of North China was organized, the direct outgrowth and lineal descendant of the old school. Its plant was the property of the Woman's Board of the Interior and was their contribution to the Union.

The almost ten years since have been a time of steady growth and advance in all lines. Under the stimulating influence of Miss Miner and her associate teachers the standards of both the intellectual and the social life of the pupils have been raised. Those who have been added to the faculty have each had especial training for some department, and it has been possible to meet the new demands of the new day, if not adequately, at least far more helpfully than could have been done under the old regime.

BUILDINGS. Indemnity funds provided for the erection of the academy and dormitory building in 1902. The first college building was put up, under Miss Miner's supervision, in 1905, with means given from the Tank estate. The kindergarten building, in an adjoining court, was also erected that same year with funds from the same source and named for the friend in whose heart was born the desire for such a place for the training of the children in China, the *Eliza Chappell Porter Kindergarten*. The building, put up in 1912 to meet some of the pressing needs of the growing

MAIN COLLEGE BUILDING, 1905

institution, is L-shaped, and is fitted into the only available space remaining in the court, unless we encroach on play grounds, which are even now less ample than is desirable for health. One arm of the L is the dormitory given by Mrs. W. G. Smith, a cousin of Miss J. E. Chapin, and bearing Miss Chapin's name. The first story of the other consists of a large and a small dining-room, providing for from a hundred and fifty to two hundred pupils, the basement entirely occupied by large kitchens and store rooms sufficient for any probable growth of the school, while the upper story at present is used for organ practice rooms, with two vacant ones which can be used as dormitories or for teachers. The dormitory arm is built with a flat roof protected by high walls on the north, east and west, which can be used as a roof garden or for sleeping. This building is planned for elongating toward the west, which will nearly double the present dormitory space, and for adding a third story. It now provides dormitory accommodation for about forty girls, and is heated by steam. Our unsightly old kitchen, which occupied the center of the school compound, has been torn down, and the yard is much improved. We hope soon to fit up our "Field Library," for which $1,000 was given by the mother of Mrs. Bashford, wife of the Bishop of M. E. Churches in China. When the rooms now occupied by the Bible School are given up we may also have here an indoor gymnasium. The college has recently been included under the endowed institutions of the American Board, receiving eight hundred dollars annually from the D. Willis James foundation. Up to this time this income has been devoted to buildings. Each of our graduates have proved their willingness to give several years of service to the church before making other life plans which would interfere with such labor.

Each year has seen the admission to the school and later to the college, of young women from widely separated parts of the land. In 1911 they came from ten different provinces and from Korea. Not only so but the pupils have come from as widely sundered classes of society. The desire to be trained in an institution in which Mandarin and not a local

JANE CHAPIN HALL, WOMAN'S COLLEGE

dialect is the vernacular has brought students from the South and the fact that standards of scholarship were high and the moral tone of the institution unquestioned, has led men of high position and character to seek its advantages for their daughters. These girls, accustomed to luxury in their homes have accommodated themselves to the simple, strenuous life of the Christian school in a way to win the affection and confidence of both teachers and associates and some of the warmest friendships formed have been those from the strongly contrasted social ranks. An admirable preparation for the new conditions which the democratic life of a Republic involves.

The story of how some of these conditions are being met, and how grave are the problems which now confront the daughters of China cannot be better given than by extracts from the reports of the College as presented during the last two years by Miss Miner. Let these with their vivid statements and strong appeal close our record. "God hath done great things for us whereof we are glad" and having given so much in response to our comparatively small outlay, shall not the women of our churches rejoice to cherish and support abundantly this institution in its commanding position and opportunities beyond our computation?

In the report for 1911 Miss Miner says "The year has brought into the school life new experiences which call for new praise to God, for the clouds of revolution and pestilence have turned toward us their silver lining, and we can truly say that 'Experience worketh steadfastness and steadfastness hope'."

Again in that of 1912, "Our little ship has sailed safely through this year of revolution, and at the end of the first year of the Republic of China we report no mutinies, no desertions, and only two days lost out of the regular routine. These days, early in March, we found a peaceful haven for about a hundred girls, including those of the Academy, with the Girls' High School at the Methodist Mission, and we wish to express our thanks for the generous hospitality of Mrs. Jewell and the teachers and pupils of that school. On

BUILDINGS OF 1912

the evening of February 29th, when ten thousand soldiers were looting and burning the east city of Peking, when smoke from fires all about us stifled and blinded us, amid the din of rifles and smashing of glass from soldiers looting shops separated from our school only by a wall, our students showed a self-control and calmness which could come only from a firm faith in God. Through the long night while we watched and made preparations to fight fire, and carried ladders to help terrified neighbors over walls into the school yard, there was not a scream or a tear to diminish our pride in our girls. After another night when the west city was at the mercy of a mob, as the protection of a guard of United States soldiers was not yet assured, a procession of a hundred walked a mile through the streets to the Methodist Mission to spend two days, then marched peacefully home, and for several months the college tower was a signal station for United States soldiers, about fifty of whom were quartered in our compound, and they gave a sense of security which enabled us to settle down to regular work in school and much

ADDITIONAL BUILDINGS, 1912

irregular work for those who looked upon our mission compound as a refuge."

TEACHING STAFF. The college had had less time than it needed from missionary teachers. During the last two years exigencies at Tung Cho took Miss Mead for a series of months to that station. Miss Payne released her and took her place there, and has but recently gone back to Peking. Upon the ladies of the college staff depend the increasingly important oversight and direction of the secondary and elementary schools in both city and country. These are the feeders of the academies and although under Chinese teachers must have no little time from Western superintendents to secure their efficiency. Miss Vanderslice's time is given to practical work in the Kindergarten Training and to physical drill in the college in addition to language study. Miss Miske took two classes in English and inspired the students to more strenuous basket ball playing, in addition to full work in the language school. Mrs. Stelle taught several classes in Kindergarten training school. Miss McCoy of

the Presbyterian mission gave Stories and Games, Gifts and Occupation Hints. Mrs. Gailey of Y. M. C. A. and Mrs. Hall of the Presbyterian Mission aided in the teaching of English and Miss Rees of the London Mission, in water color painting. After giving this list of ladies who have so helpfully touched the life of the school, we come to our Chinese staff, upon whom we depend for the heavy routine work: Mr. Sun, our invaluable teacher in the Chinese Department; Mr. Kuan Hsueh Yu, a graduate of and for some years instructor in Tung Cho College, who not only does fine work in Science and Mathematics but gives guidance and inspiration to the Literary Society and valued advice in the administration of the school. Of the assistant teachers, Mr. Cheng and Miss Li, the latter a graduate of the class of 1910, are the only ones who give full time to teaching in this school. Mr. T'an, Mr. Chou, Mr. Li and Mr. Kuo all having other duties.

If this institution is to be a College and Normal School in reality as well as in name, it must have more time of foreign teachers. Our most pressing needs are for a normal teacher and a physician with qualifications for teaching, who can care for the health of the school, teach hygiene, physiology, first aid to the injured, and other practical things which a mother and a teacher should know. Unless Miss Miske is to give all her time to teaching English, we also need a lady to devote herself to that branch.

STUDENTS. We have had one hundred and twenty-five students in all departments; of these twenty-five were of college grade, including five who graduated last June from special courses. As the class which graduated from the Academy last June was small, and the girls were all needed as teachers in various schools, it seemed best not to admit a class this year, but we expect an entering class of fifteen or twenty next autumn, i. e., that of 1912. Of these twenty-five students twelve are of the American Board, three of the Methodist Mission, one of the Presbyterian Mission, one of the London Mission and three are self-supporting.

HIGH SWINGING, WOMAN'S COLLEGE

ALGEBRA CLASS, WOMAN'S COLLEGE

Last June we graduated five students from our special two years' courses, one from the Higher Normal, two from the Scientific and two from the Kindergarten Training School. The two graduates from the Scientific Course have entered the Union Woman's Medical College.

STUDENT FEES AND CHARGES TO OTHER MISSIONS. A careful summarizing of the accounts of three years shows that our charges are too low, as the average cost per pupil, exclusive of that which is spent for permanent equipment, salaries and expenses of foreign teachers and interest on plant, is nearly forty dollars gold a year. If these other items are included the cost is about one hundred dollars a year. We propose to increase our charges from twenty-five dollars a year to thirty for academy students and thirty-five for college students, beginning the coming autumn. We have at present, including the lower grades, nineteen self-supporting students, some Christian and some non-Christian, who pay the same amount as students from other missions. It is a question whether the time has not come when the minimum fee of one dollar a month should be increased.

IN THE MUSICAL DEPARTMENT, under the efficient and successful care of Miss Corbett, about forty pupils have been enrolled and there are at present thirty-two taking instrumental lessons, fourteen of whom are of college grade. All the students have vocal lessons. The Choristers show the good results of their special training and give pleasure at all important functions of school and church. Non-Christian schools which apply to us for teachers always have singing on the list of subjects to be taught, and this, added to the fact that most of our graduates are to be teachers of little children, emphasizes the need of training in singing for all of our pupils, even those who themselves have not fine voices. This is a most useful department of our school, those who can play the organ well being also in great demand in all our work for women and children.

THE KINDERGARTEN TRAINING SCHOOL has had a very prosperous year of work. Beside the eight students of college grade already reported there is a class of seven of Academy grade in training as kindergarten assistants. The practice teaching of all of these students is done under the guidance of Miss Vanderslice and Miss McCoy in five kindergartens to which they go five days a week. There are unlimited possibilities in this line of work, which reaches mother as well as children and Chinese young women not only enter into the spirit of the kindergarten but develop power of initiative and of helping many classes of society.

ON THE WAY HOME FROM KINDERGARTEN, PEKING

RELIGIOUS LIFE AND DISCIPLINE. Our college students are all Christians and members of the Young Women's Christian Association, and all are doing active work for others as teachers in Sunday Schools or in other lines. With the help of the Academy girls they teach about four or five hundred children in other parts of the city every Sunday, their last opening being in a Home of Poor Children entirely under Chinese supervision in the West city. The Y. W. C. A. has a prayer meeting on Sunday attended by

all the students, and Bible study classes on Friday evening attended by a large number. Thursday evening class prayer meetings led by teachers take the place of the usual evening prayers while morning chapel and the regular church services furnish an important part of our educational training. There has been no marked spiritual development during the year, the intense interest in national affairs seeming to absorb their emotional nature, but there has been growth in quiet, natural ways, an increased realization of the truth that those to whom much is given are debtors to all men, and now that there is less to distract them we must hope and pray for a quickening of the spiritual life.

Our college students are practically self-governing, being under no rules as to time or place of study, except that lights must be out at ten, and there are no cases of discipline to report.

NEEDS. If the school continues to grow, we shall soon need more dormitory room unless we again crowd four girls into one room, so we ask for an appropriation of $4,000 for the purchase of land and completion of the dormitory. For buildings and equipment for musical and domestic science departments we appeal to interested friends and renew our request for a grant of $500 to add to the funds in hand for building a sanitarium at the Western Hills. Our summer colony of twenty girls who could not return to their homes, spent two months under the care of Miss Vanderslice at Wo Fo Ssu, a beautiful temple in the hills, and the physical, mental and aesthetic value of this sojourn increases our desire for a permanent home for our school in this beautiful, historic region.

Taking a larger and wider outlook we see the need of providing a new compound and new buildings for the college department, leaving the present premises for Bridgman Academy. If ample grounds could be secured joining these, it would be ideal, but anywhere in this part of the city would be convenient.

CONCLUSION. No class in China has been more intoxicated by the wine of the new life in China than the bright, intelligent women, and here lies China's danger as well as her hope. With many liberty means license, and the doings of the "smart set" who think they are following the enlightened ways of western lands, and the deplorable state of affairs in many non-Christian girls' schools challenge us to show what true freedom and true womanhood mean. To meet a man today, correspond freely, exchange rings with him next month, be married immediately without license, certificate, or any of the old safeguarding ceremonies and soon to be divorced at will; this is the history of many school girls in the past year. What hope is there except in long years of Christian education, which, while conserving all these dynamics, will give these eager, bewildered girls a self-control and poise which cannot be shaken by the strange new temptations. Never in the history of the world has there been such a tremendous need, such a beckoning opportunity as the Republic of China presents today to the women of Christendom. These truly partiotic women and girls, quivering with pent-up life, are bound to do something. Shall it be as Amazons, as frenzied suffragettes, as wives who refuse the financial support and control of their husbands, or may it be our joy to lead them into the beautiful paths of service to little children, to teach them that the charm of filial piety and wifely devotion belong to the Orient and Occident alike, to give them that training of mind and heart which will make them good citizens of the Republic of China because they are good citizens of the Kingdom of God?

Respectfully submitted in behalf of the Faculty,

LUELLA MINER.

APPROXIMATE ESTIMATES FOR THE COLLEGE DEPARTMENT.

Boarding Department (gold) - - -	$260
Chinese Teachers' Salaries - - - -	240
Heating, general expenses and equipment -	300
	$800

Number of students in college grades - - 25

Date Due

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